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scientious fidelity according to his own judgment, if not always with a just perception of the real facts to be recorded. The task which he undertook was a labor of love; and he performed it in a modest and loving spirit. As Wordsworth finely says:—

“There are no colors in the fairest sky,
So fair as these : the feather whence the pen
Was shaped, that traced the lives of these good men,
Dropt from an angel's wing : with moistened eye,
We read of faith, and purest charity,
In Statesman, Priest, and humble Citizen.”

The merits of this edition of the “Lives” are too well known to require especial notice. We need only say, that the volume contains a copious body of notes, a very good Index, and a brief memoir of Walton by Dr. Zouch, who is also known as the author of a Life of Sir Philip Sidney that enjoys some reputation. We ought to add a word of commendation as to the manner in which the volume has been reprinted. Uniform in size and appearance with the beautiful edition of Lamb's Works, noticed on a previous page, it will take its place by the side of the best specimens of either English or American typography. In a word, the book is offered to us in a garb worthy of its contents.

25. — *A History of England during the Reign of George the Third.*

By WILLIAM MASSEY, M. P. Vol. III. 1781 – 1793. London : John W. Parker and Son. 1860. 8vo. pp. 511.

THE new volume of Mr. Massey's History confirms the favorable opinion of his merits as an historian which we expressed on the publication of his second volume, and particularly as to his candor and impartiality in dealing with the party conflicts which so largely occupy his attention. The period comprised in this part of his narrative is one of the most memorable in English history, and was marked by a bitterness of party warfare seldom equalled. It includes the closing years of the American War and the commencement of the wars which grew out of the French Revolution; the rise and fall of the Rockingham ministry and of the Coalition ministry of Fox and Lord North, together with the first decade of the administration of the younger Pitt; the rupture between Fox and Burke; the impeachment of Hastings; and many other events of scarcely less significance. Yet over this period Mr. Massey passes with a candor and fairness of statement which few English historians have evinced in their treatment of these exciting topics. Though his sympathies are in general with the liberal

party in the state, he seldom, perhaps never, fails to do full justice to the Tories; and in some instances, we think, he even goes too far, conceding to the latter much which we are by no means prepared to admit. Thus he seems inclined to palliate the unconstitutional conduct of Lord Temple at the time of the rejection of Mr. Fox's India Bill, and to condemn the policy of the Whigs in stigmatizing it as a breach of privilege. But nothing can be clearer than that the course pursued by Lord Temple struck a fatal blow both at the freedom of debate and at the right of every member of Parliament to vote on all questions without royal intimidation. Mr. Massey's estimate of Burke is likewise open to animadversion; and on some other points of a similar character we must also dissent from his views. He seldom takes a very firm grasp of a subject, and his language is often ambiguous and inconsistent, though in this respect his new volume is much superior to either of the previous volumes.

No English historian has shown more candor in dealing with American affairs than Mr. Massey; and he even recognizes the justice of André's sentence, — a subject which few English writers have treated with fairness. Dissenting entirely from the view taken by the editor of the Cornwallis Papers, and other writers, he says, that André's

"eagerness to disclaim a character [that of a spy], which neither professional zeal nor patriotic ardor can quite reconcile with that of an officer and a gentleman, too plainly showed his own sense, that the circumstances under which he had been taken fixed him with that odious responsibility. There could, indeed, be no question about the matter; and Washington, upon the admission of André himself, would have been justified by the laws and usages of war in ordering him for instant execution. He referred the matter, however, to a board of general officers, comprising the most distinguished men in the American service; and upon André's own statements and admissions made before them, this board unanimously came to the conclusion that André was a spy, and as such had incurred the penalty of death." — p. 15.

Elsewhere he says, in speaking of the removal of André's remains to Westminster Abbey: —

"I would not say, that either the fatal errand upon which André condescended to be employed, nor the previous correspondence in which he was engaged with the vilest of traitors, were in any sense dishonorable; but I must be permitted to doubt whether services of this character entitle his memory to the honors of Westminster." — pp. 20, 21.

In reading this volume we have regretted to notice the same carelessness in the proof-reading which marked the first two volumes. For instance, Charleston is generally printed "Charlestown"; John Jay becomes "Mr. Gay"; and Henry Laurens appears under the strange disguise of "Mr. Sanders."